

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A multi-autoclave comprising:

a block defining plural openings that ~~are~~ extend completely through said block, said plural openings being closed at one end of said plural openings and ~~are~~ open at another end of said plural openings;

a closure member to seal said plural openings in a pressure tight manner at said another end of said plural openings; and

a locking device to force said closure member against said block such that said closure member seals said plural openings in a pressure tight manner at said another end of said plural openings so as not to be in fluid communication with one another, whereby the sealed plural openings define plural reaction chambers.

19. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said closure member comprises a cover member and a seal member, with said seal member being constructed and arranged to be positioned between said cover member and said block such that said locking device is to force said closure member against said block by applying a force against said cover member such that said seal member is forced against said block.

Claim 20 (cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim ~~20~~ 19, further comprising another closure member to seal said perforations in a pressure tight manner at said one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings by virtue of said another closure member sealing said perforations,

wherein said locking device comprises plural fasteners passing through holes extending through said cover member, through said block and through said another closure member.

22. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises a compressible or deformable material.

23. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

24. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member is fixed to said cover member.

25. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies fixed to said cover member and facing said another end of said plural openings.

26. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member and face said another end of said plural openings.

27. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are fixed to said cover member.

28. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member.

29. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is fixed to said cover member.

30. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is not fixed to said cover member.

31. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein a single said closure member is provided.

32. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said cover member comprises a rigid plate.

33. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said plural openings each have a width-wise dimension, and said block includes plural protruding profiles each with a width-wise dimension that is greater than a corresponding width-wise dimension of said plural openings, with said plural protruding profiles each being of a cross-sectional shape such that when said locking device applies the force against said cover member said seal member is forced against said plural protruding profiles such that a pressure tight seal is formed over and around each of said plural openings.

34. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said closure member includes plural spherically-shaped protrusions facing said another end of said plural openings.

35. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said plural openings each have a width-wise dimension, and said closure member includes plural protrusions each with a width-wise dimension that is greater than a corresponding width-wise dimension of said plural openings, with said plural protrusions each being of a cross-sectional shape such that when said locking device forces said closure member against said block a pressure tight seal is formed over and around each of said plural openings.

36. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 24, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

37. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

38. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said locking device includes threaded fasteners passing through said closure member and into said block,

said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in a pressure tight manner so as not to be in fluid communication with one another, and

said closure member comprises a cover member and a seal member, with said seal member being constructed and arranged to be positioned between said cover member and said block such that said threaded fasteners are to force said closure member against said block by applying a force against said cover member such that said seal member is forced against said block.

Claims 39-41 (cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim ~~41~~ 38, further comprising another closure member to seal said ~~perforations~~ plural openings at said one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in the seal tight manner by virtue of said another closure member sealing said ~~perforations~~ plural openings, wherein said threaded fasteners pass through holes extending through said cover member, through said block and through said another closure member.

43. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member comprises a compressible or deformable material.

44. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member is fixed to said cover member.

45. (Currently Amended) ~~The multi-autoclave according to claim 38;~~ A multi-autoclave comprising:

a block defining plural openings that are closed at one end of said plural openings and are open at another end of said plural openings;

a closure member to seal said plural openings in a pressure tight manner at said another end of said plural openings; and

a locking device to force said closure member against said block such that said closure member seals said plural openings in a pressure tight manner at said another end of said plural openings so as not to be in fluid communication with one another, whereby the sealed plural openings define plural reaction chambers,

wherein said locking device includes threaded fasteners passing through said closure member and into said block, and

wherein said ~~seal~~ closure member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies ~~fixed to said cover member and~~ facing said another end of said plural openings.

Claim 46 (cancelled)

47. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are fixed to said cover member.

48. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member.

49. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is fixed to said cover member.

50. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is not fixed to said cover member.

51. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein a single said closure member is provided.

52. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said cover member comprises a rigid plate.

53. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said plural openings each have a width-wise dimension, and said block includes plural protruding profiles each with a width-wise dimension that is greater than a corresponding width-wise dimension of said plural openings, with said plural protruding profiles each being of a cross-sectional shape such that when said locking device applies the force against said cover member said seal member is forced against said plural protruding profiles such that a pressure tight seal is formed over and around each of said plural openings.

54. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 44, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

55. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim ~~40~~ 38, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

56. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

57. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein
said locking device comprises a rigid frame enclosing said block,
said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in a pressure tight manner so as not to be in fluid communication with one another, and
said closure member comprises a cover member and a seal member, with said seal member being constructed and arranged to be positioned between said cover member and said block.

Claims 58-60 (cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim ~~60~~ 57, further comprising another closure member to seal said ~~perforations~~ plural openings at said one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in the seal tight manner by virtue of said another closure member sealing said ~~perforations~~ plural openings.

62. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member comprises a compressible or deformable material.

63. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member is fixed to said cover member.

64. (Currently Amended) ~~The multi-autoclave according to claim 57,~~ A multi-autoclave comprising:

a block defining plural openings that are closed at one end of said plural openings and are open at another end of said plural openings;

a closure member to seal said plural openings in a pressure tight manner at said another end of said plural openings; and

a locking device to force said closure member against said block such that said closure member seals said plural openings in a pressure tight manner at said another end of said plural openings so as not to be in fluid communication with one another, whereby the sealed plural openings define plural reaction chambers,

wherein said locking device comprises a rigid frame enclosing said block, and

wherein said ~~seal~~ closure member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies ~~fixed to said cover member~~ and facing said another end of said plural openings.

Claim 65 (cancelled)

66. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are fixed to said cover member.

67. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member.

68. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is fixed to said cover member.

69. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is not fixed to said cover member.

70. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein a single said closure member is provided.

71. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said cover member comprises a rigid plate.

72. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said plural openings each have a width-wise dimension, and said block includes plural protruding profiles each with a width-wise dimension that is greater than a corresponding width-wise dimension of said plural openings, with said plural protruding profiles each being of a cross-sectional shape such that when said locking device applies the force against said cover member said seal member is forced against said plural protruding profiles such that a pressure tight seal is formed over and around each of said plural openings.

73. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 63, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

74. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim ~~59~~ 57, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

75. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said rigid frame also encloses said closure member.

76. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

77. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, further comprising a frame surrounding said block so as to prevent lateral deformation of said block and ensure that outer ones of said plural openings remain sealed in the pressure tight manner,

wherein said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in a pressure tight manner so as not to be in fluid communication with one another, and

wherein said closure member comprises a cover member and a seal member, with said seal member being constructed and arranged to be positioned between said cover member and said block such that said locking device is to force said closure member against said block by applying a force against said cover member such that said seal member is forced against said block.

Claims 78-80 (cancelled)

81. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim ~~80~~ 77, further comprising another closure member to seal said ~~perforations~~ plural openings at said one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in the seal tight manner by virtue of said another closure member sealing said ~~perforations~~ plural openings.

82. (Previously Presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 81, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

Claim 83 (cancelled)

84. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim ~~78~~ 18, further comprising a frame surrounding said block so as to prevent lateral deformation of said block and ensure that outer ones of said plural openings remain sealed in the pressure tight manner,

wherein said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in a pressure tight manner so as not to be in fluid communication with one another,

wherein said locking device includes threaded fasteners passing through said closure member and into said block, and

wherein said closure member comprises a cover member and a seal member, with said seal member being constructed and arranged to be positioned between said cover member and said block such that said threaded fasteners are to force said closure member against said block by applying a force against said cover member such that said seal member is forced against said block.

Claims 85-86 (cancelled)

87. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim ~~86~~ 84, further comprising another closure member to seal said ~~perforations~~ plural openings at said one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in the seal tight manner by virtue of said another closure member sealing said ~~perforations~~ plural openings,

wherein said threaded fasteners pass through holes extending through said cover member, through said block and through said another closure member.

88. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 87, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

89. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member comprises a compressible or deformable material.

90. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member is fixed to said cover member.

91. (Currently Amended) ~~The multi-autoclave according to claim 77,~~ A multi-autoclave comprising:

a block defining plural openings that are closed at one end of said plural openings and are open at another end of said plural openings;

a closure member to seal said plural openings in a pressure tight manner at said another end of said plural openings;

a locking device to force said closure member against said block such that said closure member seals said plural openings in a pressure tight manner at said another end of said plural openings so as not to be in fluid communication with one another, whereby the sealed plural openings define plural reaction chambers; and

a frame surrounding said block so as to prevent lateral deformation of said block and ensure that outer ones of said plural openings remain sealed in the pressure tight manner,

wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies ~~fixed to said cover member and~~ facing said another end of said plural openings.

Claim 92 (cancelled)

93. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are fixed to said cover member.

94. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member.

95. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is fixed to said cover member.

96. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is not fixed to said cover member.

97. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein a single said closure member is provided.

98. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said cover member comprises a rigid plate.

99. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said plural openings each have a width-wise dimension, and said block includes plural protruding profiles each with a width-wise dimension that is greater than a corresponding width-wise dimension of said plural openings, with said plural protruding profiles each being of a cross-sectional shape such that when said locking device applies the force against said cover member said seal member is forced against said plural protruding profiles such that a pressure tight seal is formed over and around each of said plural openings.

100. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 90, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

101. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim ~~79~~ 77, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

102. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

103. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said plural openings comprise perforations that extend completely through said block.

104. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim ~~103~~ 18, further comprising another closure member to seal said ~~perforations~~ plural openings in a pressure tight manner at said

one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings by virtue of said another closure member sealing said ~~perforations~~ plural openings,

wherein said locking device comprises plural fasteners passing through holes extending through said cover member, through said block and through said another closure member.

105. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said ~~seat~~ closure member comprises a compressible or deformable material.

106. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

Claims 107-109 (cancelled)

110. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said ~~seat~~ closure member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies ~~that are fixed to said cover member~~.

Claim 111 (cancelled)

112. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said ~~seat~~ closure member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings ~~and is fixed to said cover member~~.

Claim 113 (cancelled)

114. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein a single said closure member is provided.

115. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said ~~cover~~ closure member comprises a rigid plate.

Claim 116 (cancelled)

117. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said locking device includes fasteners passing through said closure member and into said block at positions that are located between at least some of said plural openings,

said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in a pressure tight manner so as not to be in fluid communication with one another, and

said closure member comprises a cover member and a seal member, with said seal member being constructed and arranged to be positioned between said cover member and said block such that said fasteners are to force said closure member against said block by applying a force against said cover member such that said seal member is forced against said block.

Claims 118-120 (cancelled)

121. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim ~~120~~ 117, further comprising another closure member to seal said ~~perforations~~ plural openings at said one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in the seal tight manner by virtue of said another closure member sealing said ~~perforations~~ plural openings,

wherein said fasteners pass through holes extending through said cover member, through said block and through said another closure member.

122. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises a compressible or deformable material.

123. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member is fixed to said cover member.

124. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies fixed to said cover member and facing said another end of said plural openings.

125. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member and face said another end of said plural openings.

126. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are fixed to said cover member.

127. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member.

128. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is fixed to said cover member.

129. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is not fixed to said cover member.

130. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein a single said closure member is provided.

131. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said cover member comprises a rigid plate.

132. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said plural openings each have a width-wise dimension, and said block includes plural protruding profiles each

with a width-wise dimension that is greater than a corresponding width-wise dimension of said plural openings, with said plural protruding profiles each being of a cross-sectional shape such that when said locking device applies the force against said cover member said seal member is forced against said plural protruding profiles such that a pressure tight seal is formed over and around each of said plural openings.

133. (Previously presented) The multi-autoclave according to claim 123, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

134. (Currently Amended) The multi-autoclave according to claim ~~119~~ 117, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.